

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 23, rejected claim 21 under the second paragraph of section 112, rejected claim 23 under section 101, rejected claim 13 as anticipated by Shimomura, rejected claims 13 – 18 and 20 – 23 as obvious over Shumomura et al. in view of Sadler, rejected claim 19 as obvious over Shimomura et al. in view of Sadler and Boehmer et al.

Claim Objection

The claim objection to claim 23 cites “the method” in line 2. However, this phrase does not appear in the claim. The examiner also indicates that a further passage from the claim does not recite a step. However, the cited passage precedes the claim to the claimed steps. Taking the view that the Examiner is objecting to the phrasing of the claim, claim 23 has been amended and so any objection is thereby overcome.

35 USC §112, 2nd ¶

Claim 21 has been amended to more clearly claim the use of the method and to provide that the errors are corrected in the method. The rejection is overcome.

35 USC §101

Claim 23 has been amended to claim a computer readable media on which is stored the program. The claims are thereby directed to a physical thing and so claim a statutory category of invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the objection is overcome.

35 USC §102(b)

The **Shimomura** et al. reference discloses a printer or copier self-repair method. The example given in the patent operates like a cruise control for an automobile. If one part of the paper path is operating too slow, that part is instructed to speed up to the target speed. If the paper takes too long to draw from the paper stack, the pressure is increased on the draw roller which draws the paper from the stack. Prior to implementing the changes, a simulation is performed on a virtual model to determine if the fix would be successful prior to applying the

fix to the actual device. The reference does not teach correcting of errors in sequence in a direction opposite the paper transport direction.

By contrast, the present invention provides an error correction method for printers where an error, such as a paper jam, is detected. The printer modules are requested to correct the error in sequence in the reverse order of the paper flow. Where the error is a paper jam or other media transport issue, the modules are instructed to attempt to move paper along the paper transport path in the forward direction. If the move instruction is successfully carried out by the module, this shows that movement of the media downstream is possible. If the error remains, the preceding module in the paper flow direction is instructed to operate. The downstream path has been shown to operate without error so this instruction may be successful as well. It may even clear the transport problem. If the error still remains, yet a further module in a preceding direction of the paper transport path is instructed to operate. This continues in sequence module-by-module in the reverse direction to the paper flow until the error is either corrected or determined not to be correctable by this method. If a module cannot successfully clear the paper path, a determination is made as to whether the module can be removed from operation and the printer still operated.

The claims are directed to various aspects of this invention and the claimed invention is not disclosed or taught in the prior art reference. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is hereby requested.

35 USC §103(a)

The **Sadler** reference discloses a self-check-out system for stores where errors are detected and, depending on the error, the system is taken off line, the customer is instructed to correct the error (the customer is instructed to rescan a price code that did not scan correctly), a store employee is informed of the error (a receipt printer is out of paper), or the system is instructed to continue without the failing unit (a camera has not captured an image of the customer). There is no teaching or suggestion to query modules in a reverse direction to media flow.

The patents of **Shimomura** and **Sadler** are not combinable. Although they both relate to error detection, the two systems in which errors are being detected are so different that the person of ordinary skill would not have been motivated to combine these without some additional guidance not found in the references themselves. Even if they are combined, there is no teaching in the prior art that would lead the ordinary person to clear paper jams along a media transport path of a printer or copier. Shimomura only seeks to maintain the desired speed of paper flow while Sadler instructs the user to fix the problem or removes the failed unit from service. Clearing of paper jams is not taught.

There is no teaching to test the operation of the units in reverse flow order. The Examiner addresses this issue by saying that testing could be in any order. This ignores the advantages obtained by using the reverse flow order testing for clearing paper jams. This feature clearly distinguishes over the art.

The **Boehmer** reference discloses a printer of the assignee of the present application. The reference does not teach or suggest the error correction method as disclosed and taught here. As such, the combination of **Boehmer** with **Shimomura** and **Sadler** does not obviate the claimed invention.

The claims are directed to a non-obvious improvement over the cited art, whether considered alone or in combination. Withdrawal of the rejection is hereby requested.

New Claims

New claims have been added to claim additional aspects of the invention. Favorable consideration of the claims is hereby requested.

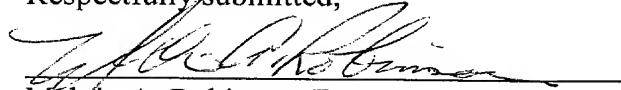
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the forgoing.

Deposit Account Information

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or to credit any overpayment to account no. 501519.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melvin A. Robinson', is written over a horizontal line.

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